

phase of 'physiological' hallucinosis: and in his description of hypnogogic states he makes no mention of the bizarre changes in the body image which can occur. Lilliputian hallucinations can fill the observer with horror, although in the author's experience the patient usually enjoys them. Jealousy is commonplace in the community and from time to time it comes to the attention of the family doctor. We are reminded it can be a dangerous symptom. In a series of 200 sane murderers, almost a quarter were driven to the act by jealousy.

This book will not find its way onto the bookshelf of every general practitioner, but those with an interest in psychiatry will find it both fascinating and useful.

Parkinson's disease. LESLIE OLIVER, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. London. William Heinemann Medical Books Limited. 1967. Pp. 69. Price 21s.

This is a disappointing book. Taking as his text a not uncommon chronic neurological disease that presents many problems to us all—victims, relatives, family doctors, neurologists, hospitals and local health authorities, Mr Oliver has let us down. He is one of our most eminent neurosurgeons and has had a particular interest in and experience of the surgical care of patients with Parkinson's disease. I therefore turned expectantly to this welcome short book hoping to learn from his experience and knowledge. The contents page was promising. There are three sections, one dealing with the underlying lesions and the clinical features, the second with medical treatment and the third with surgical management.

The book is presented badly, with a lack of depth that makes one wonder for whom it is intended. Nowhere, except perhaps in the section on surgical management, does Mr Oliver assume that the book will be read by a scientifically-trained doctor. The clinical description is no better than that in any standard general textbook of medicine, with no pearls culled from experience. The section on medical treatment is inadequate in its rather superficial discussion of the drugs available. There is scant mention of the problems facing the families at home and of ways and means of helping them.

The section on surgical management is over-complex, in contrast to the rest of the book and with over-emphasis on complex machines designed for stereotaxic thalamotomy. The history of most surgical machines is that few have been accepted by more than a few and that the more complex the machine the less likely the acceptance.

Mr Oliver's presentation of his personal results is naïve. He states that in 51 per cent of surgically operated cases the results have been 'outstanding' and in 81 per cent 'worthwhile'. I wonder how representative these results really are? From my own, admittedly small, series I find that of 10 patients who were operated upon no outstanding success was noted and in only two was the procedure worth while. It is a pity that Mr Oliver did not combine with a neurologist and a family doctor to write this book.

Paraplegia at home. MARJORIE A. THOMPSON, A.I.M.S.W. and WILLIAM A. MURRAY, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Limited. 1967. Pp. 43. Price 10s. 6d.

This booklet will be of considerable interest to those dealing with paraplegics in hospitals, to local government officers, town and county councils and not least general practitioners. It is an analysis of a follow up of 101 paraplegics (85 males and 16 females) who have attended the Spinal Injuries Unit at Edenhall